

Representative Carol S. Moss proposes the following substitute bill:

ADVANCED DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP PILOT PROGRAM

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Carol S. Moss

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill enacts an advanced degree scholarship pilot program.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ enacts a five-year advanced degree scholarship pilot program for educators who pursue advanced degrees in education;
- ▶ grants the State Board of Education rulemaking authority to create and administer the pilot program;
- ▶ provides for the use of the Public Education Economic Stabilization Account to fund the pilot program; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- ▶ to State Board of Education - Educator Licensing - Educator Licensing as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account, One-time, \$20,000,000



26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 This bill provides a special effective date.

28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **53F-9-204**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 386, 456

31 ENACTS:

32 **53F-5-222**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **53F-5-222** is enacted to read:

36 **53F-5-222. Advanced Degree Scholarship Pilot Program.**

37 (1) As used in this section:

38 (a) "Advanced degree" means a master or doctoral level degree.

39 (b) "Eligible educator" means an educator as the term is defined in Section [53E-6-102](#).

40 (c) "Program" means the Advanced Degree Scholarship Pilot Program created in

41 Subsection (2).

42 (2) There is established a five-year pilot program known as the the Advanced Degree
43 Scholarship Pilot Program to provide financial assistance to educators for the pursuit of
44 advanced degrees.

45 (3) Subject to Section [53F-9-204](#), the state board shall award a scholarship to an
46 eligible educator who:

47 (a) pursues an advanced degree in education;

48 (b) submits an application to the state board;

49 (c) submits a letter of recommendation from the principal of the qualified applicant's
50 school;

51 (d) subject to Subsection (4), is enrolled in an advanced degree program from:

52 (i) an institution of higher education within the state system of higher education
53 described in Section [53B-1-102](#); or

54 (ii) a private, non-profit institution of higher education in the state that is accredited by
55 the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; and

56 (e) will complete the advanced degree program no later than three years from the day

57 on which the advanced degree program begins.

58 (4) For purposes of Subsection (3)(d), the state board shall determine the advanced
59 degrees that qualify for a scholarship award.

60 (5) The state board shall determine the amount of the scholarship award, ensuring that
61 the amount does not exceed the combined costs of tuition, fees, and required textbooks.

62 (6) The state board shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah
63 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to:

64 (a) create a scholarship application process and appeal process for the program;

65 (b) establish criteria for awarding a scholarship;

66 (c) require a scholarship recipient to use the scholarship award exclusively for the
67 purposes of pursuing an advanced degree described in this section; and

68 (d) establish policies and procedures for cancellation or repayment of scholarship
69 awards if the scholarship recipient fails to meet the requirements under this section.

70 (7) If an appropriation under this section is insufficient to cover the costs associated
71 with the program, the state board may:

72 (a) reduce the amount of the scholarship award; and

73 (b) distribute scholarship awards on a pro rata basis to all eligible educators who
74 submitted a completed application before the application deadline.

75 Section 2. Section **53F-9-204** is amended to read:

76 **53F-9-204. Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account.**

77 (1) There is created within the Uniform School Fund a restricted account known as the
78 "Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted Account."

79 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall be funded from the
80 following revenue sources:

81 (i) 15% of the difference between, as determined by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal
82 Analyst:

83 (A) the estimated amount of ongoing Income Tax Fund and Uniform School Fund
84 revenue available for the Legislature to appropriate for the next fiscal year; and

85 (B) the amount of ongoing appropriations from the Income Tax Fund and Uniform
86 School Fund in the current fiscal year; and

87 (ii) other appropriations as the Legislature may designate.

88 (b) If the appropriation described in Subsection (2)(a) would cause the ongoing
89 appropriations to the account to exceed 11% of Uniform School Fund appropriations described
90 in Section 53F-9-201.1 for the same fiscal year, the Legislature shall appropriate only those
91 funds necessary to ensure that the ongoing appropriations to the account equal 11% of Uniform
92 School Fund appropriations for that fiscal year.

93 (3) Subject to the availability of ongoing appropriations to the account, in accordance
94 with Utah Constitution, Article X, Section 5, Subsection (4), the ongoing appropriation to the
95 account shall be used to fund:

96 (a) except for a year described in Subsection (3)(b), one-time appropriations to the
97 public education system; and

98 (b) the Minimum School Program for a year in which Income Tax Fund revenue and
99 Uniform School Fund revenue are insufficient to fund:

100 (i) ongoing appropriations to the public education system; and

101 (ii) enrollment growth and inflation estimates, as defined in Section 53F-9-201.1.

102 (4) (a) The account shall earn interest.

103 (b) All interest earned on account money shall be deposited in the account.

104 (5) On or before December 31, 2023, and every three years thereafter, the Office of the
105 Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall:

106 (a) review the percentages described in Subsections (2)(a)(i) and (2)(b); and

107 (b) recommend to the Executive Appropriations Subcommittee any changes based on
108 the review described in Subsection (5)(a).

109 (6) In preparing budget bills for a given fiscal year, the Executive Appropriations
110 Committee shall make the one-time appropriations described in Subsection (3)(a) by
111 appropriating at least the lesser of 10% of the total amount of the one-time appropriations or:

112 (a) the cost of providing 32 paid professional hours for teachers in accordance with
113 Section 53F-7-203[-]; or

114 (b) the cost of pursuing an advanced degree or certification for educators in accordance
115 with Section 53F-5-222.

116 **Section 3. FY 2025 Appropriation.**

117 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
118 2024, and ending June 30, 2025. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for

119 fiscal year 2025.

120 Subsection 3(a). **Operating and Capital Budgets.**

121 Under the terms and conditions of Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary Procedures Act, the
122 Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or accounts indicated for
123 the use and support of the government of the state of Utah.

124 ITEM 1 To State Board of Education - Educator Licensing

125 From Public Education Economic Stabilization Restricted \$20,000,000
126 Account, One-time

126 Schedule of Programs:

127 Educator Licensing \$20,000,000

128 The Legislature intends the state board to use the funds appropriated for the Advanced Degree
129 Scholarship Pilot Program at \$4,000,000 each year of the five-year pilot program.

130 Section 4. **Effective date.**

131 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.